22nd December 1922]

A.—Officers whose posts have become superfluous will be provided for elsewhere, if possible. If not, they will be given compensation pensions in cases in which they have more than 10 years' service, and gratuities where they have less.

Presidentship of Landing and Shipping Fees Committees.

653 *Q.*—Mr. V. HAMID SULTAN MARAKKAYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state the reason why deputy collectors and sub-collectors are preferred for the presidentship of the Landing and Shipping Fees Committees, when the Port officers who are in the know of the business proper are available?

A.—The Committees consist largely of merchants and of port officials whose views on questions raised may be widely divergent, and it is considered generally desirable therefore to have as President of the Committee a Revenue Officer who has no direct concern with the questions in issue.

Municipal elections in Negapatam.

654 *Q.*—Mr. V. P. PAKKIRISWAMI PILLAI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(1) the names of the polling officers appointed by the Chairman, Municipal Council, Negapatam, for elections in August 1922;

(2) whether any objections were taken to their appointment, if so, on what grounds;

(3) whether it is a fact that armed police had to patrol the streets on the election day, if so, what necessity there was for such a contingency; and

(4) whether the Government have received any reports from the Collector of Tanjore about irregularities in the election proceedings (especially about the postponement of the election on 8th August 1922 by the Chairman in spite of protest) and if so, whether any action has been taken thereon, and whether the Government will be pleased to lay all the papers on the table?

A.—(1) The following gentlemen were appointed by the Chairman as polling officers for the election held in August 1922:—

(1) M.R.Ry. S. P. K. Somasundaram Pillai Avargal.
(2) " E. T. S. Kothandapani Pillai Avargal.
(3) " A. Solomon Royan Chettiyar.
(4) " R. S. Srinivasalu Nayudu Garu.
(5) Janab V. Hamid Sultan Marakkayar Sahib Bahadur, M.L.C.

(2) One of the candidates for the election, Shaik Muhammad Malim alias Perianna, presented a petition to the Chairman on 3rd August 1922 objecting to the appointment of any of these gentlemen except M.R.Ry. A. Solomon Royan Chettiyar Avargal, as they were either canvassing for himself or for the rival candidate.